The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occuring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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WAR SHIPS BREED SUSPICION SAYS BRITISH IRON WORKER

London, England, Sept. 3.—"The building of battle ships will never help our unemployed," declares John Hill, general secretary of the United Society of Boiler Makers and Iron Ship Builders.

"Every war ship we build will increase international suspicion, reduce trade and cancel a score of merchant ships.

"Today the German fleet is at the bottom and they cannot build a fleet for the next 40 years. America is our comrade of the great war. Japan is our special ally. Yet, we are told by our government that we must keep our eye on them and start the same competition in armaments with them as we did with Germany—a competition which can only end in one way—war.

"This government is controlled by big business. Big business is not national by any means. It is international.

"The British shareholders will sing 'God Save the King,' and hoist the Union Jack. The American shareholders will sing 'Yankee Doodle' and hoist the Stars and Stripes.

"Each will be the most bigoted patriot in his own country and curse the blasted foreigner.

"At the annual dividend meeting of their international company they will drink and laugh and smoke together as they divide profits out of the ammunition they sold to all nations to destroy each other.

"The world is in the hands of 'hard-faced men' who tell us they must have unemployment, as it is the only way to break down not only wages, but to break down the spirit of the workers.

"We shall abolish unemployment more easily in peace than it was abolished in war, and to a much more useful purpose. We shall all have work and rejoice in our work when we calmly and legitimately take our places as equals with all men in the ordering of our daily tasks."

Anti-Strike Law Fails, Says Former Advocate

Arkansas City, Kan., Sept. 3.—Senator Dick Howard of this county announces his opposition to Allen's "can't-strike" law and declares he will vote for its repeal at the next legislature. Senator Howard voted for the bill.

In an editorial in his paper, the Arkansas City Traveler, he states that after two years' observation he has changed his mind, and he finds there was no actual call for the law; that it has not made good and that it has increased the state's expenses without benefiting anyone.

Senator Howard's views are one of the many indications that Allen's star is setting. The hysterical public opinion manufactured in the interest of "can't-strike" legislation has reached its peak, and from now on organized labor's opposition to this act will be considered.

In a few years Allen will be forgotten, and the men who shrieked his praise will disown their one-time allegiance to his handcuff plan.

Mine Thugs Blamed For W. Va. Civil War

Indianapolis, Sept. 3.—John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, informed President Harding that coal owners' thugs and the break down of state government in West Virginia are responsible for present conditions in that state.

The trade union official also stated that the United Mine Workers is no way responsible for the present outburst and that it stands now, as it always has, pleading for peace and orderly methods in the settlement of differences.

In announcing information he conveyed to Washington President Lewis said:

"The West Virginia trouble is directly traceable to the continued assaults and outrages perpetrated upon individual mine workers by the armed Baldwin-Felts guards employed in such great numbers by the coal owners in Logan, Mingo, McDowell and Mercer counties, against whom this office has made repeated protests.

"The lamentable breakdown of the state government in West Virginia, with its consequent failure to give protection to its citizens, has indeed justified the severe criticisms of representatives of the federal government.

"Governor Morgan possesses the power to compel the surrender of the Baldwin-Felts army with all of its war munitions, and it is beyond comprehension that he has failed to act in the present emergency."

THRIFT PLAN COLLAPSES; MANY WORKERS "STUNG"

New York, Sept. 3.—More than [illegible]0,000 workers throughout the industrial regions east of Chicago have been "stung" by the collapse of the national thrift bond corporation.

Thrift bonds to the amount of [illegible],700,000 were sold by the corporation on the installment plan to these workers. Employers aided the scheme by deducting payments from the pay envelope.

The corporation deposited a group of government, state and municipal securities in a trust fund as a pledge for their thrift bonds, but the market value of the securities has dropped on an average of 30 per cent, and as this affected the interest on the thrift bonds, the corporation is now wrecked.

The workers are offered the poor consolation that if they wait 20 or 30 years, when the government, state and municipal securities mature, they will receive payment in full.

"HONOR" STRIKEBREAKERS.

Baltimore, Sept. 3.—The organization of employing printers, known as the Typothetae, is "honoring" strikebreakers who are assisting it in violating a 44-hour pledge made with the printing trade unions. This "honor" is in the form of a card, which reads: "Typothetae honor card. This card is honored by any Typothetae in the United States and Canada. This certifies that——— having stood loyally with employer and country for the 48-hour week during the May, 1921 strike, is hereby placed upon the Typothetae honor roll. The person whose name is signed above is commended to the Typothetae members for every consideration in the matter of employment to which his loyalty entitles him. This temporary card to be exchanged for permanent card, properly endorsed by employer, 30 days after close of strike."

STATE UNION TO MEET.

Jersey City, N. J., Sept. 3.—The annual convention of the New Jersey state federation of labor will be held in this city, starting Monday, October 3.

W. VA. MINE ISSUES EVADED BY GOVERNOR

Charlestown, W. Va., Sept. 3.—With the skill of a corporation lawyer Governor Morgan dodges the attempt to force him to assist in ending civil war in West Virginia.

At a mass meeting in this city of citizens of five counties the governor was asked to use his good offices to get the mine workers and coal owners together. The governor twists this request to make it appear that the mass meeting called upon him to use coercive methods. After he erected this straw man, he waxes virtuous on his limitations as chief executive and his absence of power to force a conference. He uses the same tactics when he would create the impression that the miners are attempting to force recognition of their union.

In dealing with the claim of citizens that the state mining laws are being violated in Mingo county, he refers them to the Mingo county courts, although that county is under martial law, proclaimed by the governor, after the miners were forced on strike in an attempt to enforce these laws.

The citizens also called on the governor to insist that the state bill of rights, guaranteeing protection against unlawful search and seizure in their homes, be assured in Mingo county. This is an awkward presentation for the governor, and he meets it by ignoring it.

Trade unionists declare the letter is an insult to the citizens of West Virginia, although it again shows that no aid can be expected from the chief executive in re-establishing constitutional government in this state.

STEEL TRUST EVADES TAXES.

St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 3.—The Minnesota state federation of labor is uniting wage earners and sympathizers in this state to undo a tax wrong that the last state legislature perpetrated because of its friendship for the steel trust.

For years an agitation has been conducted in favor of a tonnage tax on the millions of tons of iron ore that the trust has taken out of this state. These ore lands were practically seized by the trust. The tonnage tax agitation became so strong that the legislature was finally compelled to levy a tax of $1 a ton. To relieve the trust from this burden the legislature slipped through a bill which limits the general taxes in all municipalities to $50 per capita and school taxes to $40, making a total of $90.

To understand the effect of this law it must be borne in mind that municipalities in the iron ore section are differently situated from municipalities in other sections of the state. On the iron ore range populations are small and property values are high. Because of this fact the bill affects only villages and cities on the range, though it is general in its application to stand court tests.

By putting taxes on a per capita basis, instead of a property basis, the single taxpayer, with $10,000,000 worth of iron ore lands, can not be taxed more than $90. In the same village another citizen, who owns $1,000 worth of property, is likewise assessed $90.

RAILROAD "HAND OUT" TO AID SPECULATORS?

New York, Sept. 3.—Cool headed Wall street smiles when the public is informed that prosperity will dawn when congress gives the railroads their latest half-billion dollar "hand out."

It is agreed in select circles that the bill will not benefit the railroads to the extent claimed, but the railroads' owners, in their banking, financial and speculative capacities will be benefited immensely.

The cool headed see the need for the stock market being braced. Values have tumbled and stock sales are few. The chief value of the "hand out" will be its lure of badly singed lambs to pastures that are now as barren as desert wastes.

The government's O. K. on half a billion dollars' worth of railroad stock will be a windfall, as it is believed this will create a demand for these securities and business may again "look up" in Wall street and vicinity.

So the prosperity tales are for public consumption, as are speeches by diplomats, who do their real business below the street level. The prosperity tales are also useful to editors and other "molders of public opinion" who affect an owlish air.

While speculators and financiers are aware of the opposition to the "hand out" throughout the country, there is a confidence that congress will pass the bill at this session.

"Don't discuss it, just jam it through," is the advice most favored by men who want a prop for the stock market and who realize that success depends upon the least possible publicity.

OPPOSE COOLIE PLAN.

San Juan, Porto Rico, Sept. 3.—Porto Rican organized wage earners have forwarded to the house immigration committee at Washington their protest against the admission of Chinese coolies to Hawaii. The unionists show that coolies in Hawaii will be detrimental to the life and well-being of hundreds of families of Porto Rican workers who have been taken from this island under governmental agreement to work on Hawaiian sugar plantations.

The unionists point out that Porto Rican sugar cannot compete with Hawaiian sugar, produced under the peonage system and that the Hawaiian sugar dumped into the United States will make Porto Rican competition impossible, thereby "menacing the great bulk of agricultural workers of Porto Rico and driving them to suffer more hardships and misery.

"The sugar industry of Porto Rico cannot be successfully operated in the face of such destructive competition and will be ruined and those dependent thereon will be unable to enjoy a living wage unless the fundamental policy of Chinese coolie exclusion from the possessions and territories of the United States is strictly observed."

BAR MOVIE CENSORSHIP.

Boston, Sept. 3.—Voters have made it impossible for Massachusetts to adopt a motion picture censorship law until after November, 1922. Sufficient petitions have been filed with the secretary of state requesting a referendum on this question. The filing of the petitions automatically prevent censorship until the next election.

INVESTIGATE TEXT BOOKS.

Atlantic City, Sept. 3.—At its meeting in this city the A. F. of L. executive council received a report from the committee of education on the progress made in the analysis of text books used in public schools on civil, industrial and political history of our nation, as well as text books on politics and political economy.

The report indicates evidence of a well-organized effort to shape the thoughts of the young through the preparation of the text books used, with a total absence of labor's viewpoint.

It is intended that schools, colleges and universities, libraries and all schools of learning shall be supplied with accurate information regarding industrial problems and every possible aid is to be given text book writers and publishers so that those preparing these works may no longer claim that they are not acquainted with the principles of industrial education.

After investigating the conditions of employment under which the great mass of teachers are compelled to labor, the executive council finds that while schools are conducted for the public benefit too often does the public not show proper appreciation of the services rendered by those who do the actual work of teaching. The council announced its purpose to do all within its power to aid the teachers to perfect their organization so that the proper public sentiment can be aroused to properly compensate them for the great service they perform.

BELGIUM GUARDS KIDDIES.

Washington, Sept. 3.—Belgium has realized that health protection in the communities must go hand in hand with health protection in industry, says the United States children's bureau, in discussing "Child Welfare in Belgium."

Dr. Rene Sand of the university of Brussels is quoted as emphasizing the following points in Belgium's health activities: General public health work, child welfare, housing, the restriction of alcohol consumption and education and recreation both for adults and children.

A national children's board, maintained by public and private funds, supervises and supports child welfare organizations meeting certain conditions. The child welfare program includes the periodical free examination of children under 3 years of age brought by their mothers for examination; the establishment of free medical dispensaries for expectant mothers; the diffusion of knowledge relating to infant health and maternal nursing, and the supervision of boarded-out children under 7 years of age.

The cost of child welfare work will be borne one-half by the state, one-fourth by the province and one-fourth by the municipality. Provincial and municipal boards are appointed by the national board and advisory committees are provided for.

DUALLISM IN FAR WEST.

San Francisco, Sept. 3.—Anti-union employers are not the only ones who are awake to the value of alluring titles, as is shown by the organization of a central body in this city known as the rank and file federation of workers.

This dual movement is being opposed by the San Francisco labor council.

Gun Men's Rule Brings Chaos in West Virginia

New York, Sept. 3.—In a leading editorial the New York World presents this stinging arraignment of Governor Morgan and the coal owners of West Virginia:

"Under the constitution the citizens of each state are guaranteed a republican form of government; in Logan and Mingo counties a large proportion of the mining population lives under an industrial autocracy exercised by the mine operators through their control of the local governments. The sheriff of Logan is owned by the operators and he is surrounded by detectives sworn in as deputies.

"The community is too thoroughly cowed to dare assert its rights. Mingo is less absolutely owned by the interests and breaks out occasionally in violent protest.

"Should the United States interfere in the present quarrel, it is bound first of all to eliminate from the local governments every official known to be connected with the mine owners and to restore the rights of free speech and assembly wherever they have been abrogated either by edict or terrorization. The original army that set out from Marmet had no other purpose than to get vengeance for the death of Sid Hatfield by driving the Baldwin-Felts detectives out of Mingo. They should have been driven out of Mingo long ago by the state government; since it proves unequal to the task, the responsibility falls on Washington.

"There will be no end to the trouble in western West Virginia until the rights of citizens receive equal consideration with the rights of corporations.

"When the miners rise against their oppressors, Governor Morgan is alarmed, as well he may be; when individual liberty is denied the citizens of his state he sees no cause for action. Yet the second has led to the first—anarchy on one side is met by anarchy on the other. The state, which has let things slide, throws up its hands.

"If the federal government goes into West Virginia, it should do so to enforce constitutional guarantees. Once that is done, there will be no disorder."

STRUGGLE FOR AMERICAN IDEALS IS LEAD BY ORGANIZED LABOR.

Every trade unionist should be thrilled at the battle organized labor is making against plutocracy and greed.

At no time in its history has the organized movement resisted so many flank and direct attacks.

These attacks are not only against wage scales, working conditions and trade unionism as such, but they include challenges to the very principles of democratic government.

The anti-union campaign, waged since the armistice, has never been excelled, either in extent or unscrupulous vigor. Every power at the command of autocratic capitalists has been wheeled into this fight.

The result is evident—labor was never more militant. The spirit of labor is unscathed.

The public is finally realizing that labor is correct when it insists that wage reductions lessen the workers' consuming power, and that this policy intensifies industrial depression instead of relieving it.

No other group of citizens are resisting the encroachment of the judiciary. Labor's voice is the one clear-cut protest that fearlessly and repeatedly calls attention to these "sappers" of our governmental insitutions.

Labor alone has opposed cheap wage employers who would Chinafy America by first admitting coolie labor, in bond, to Hawaii, a territory of the United States.

Labor has aroused the country and its vigilance has rescued the nation from one of the meanest proposals plutocracy is capable of.

Another daring plan would deny a preliminary hearing to a citizen in the jurisdiction of his domicile when arrested by order of a federal judge in another jurisdiction.

This attempt to legalize kidnapping has been approved by the senate, where it was sneaked through without publicity.

As in other crises, labor raised the warning cry. Every A. F. of L. affiliate has been notified of this menace to American guarantees and law makers have been called upon, again and again, in language easily understood, that they will be held to strict account if the federal judiciary of this country is given a power that would shame the founders of our nation.

Trade unionists may well be proud of their movement. Its record of Americanism speaks for itself. Deeds count—not words.

The comedy in these contests against plutocracy are the lecturers and advisers of labor who have no connection with the trade union movement who would gladly assume the task of "leading" the wage earners. This element strives to attract attention to nonessentials, but they are always absent at the battle roll call.

The workers should glory in the triumphs of our weather-beaten, time-tested trade unionism.

Heads up for everyone!

Agitate! Educate! Organize!

U. S. Court Decision Aids Profiteers; Taxes Evaded by Stock Dividend Plan

Washington, Sept. 3.—A statement prepared by the United States treasury department for Congressman Oldfield shows that more than $1,500,000,000 war profits have been protected from taxation since March, last year, by issuing stock dividends in this amount.

Last year the United States supreme court declared the tax on stock dividends is invalid, and Congressman Oldfield insisted that new legislation be prepared that would reach these tax dodgers. The house ignored the request when it passed the new tax bill.

He said a 20 per cent tax would net the government $300,000,000 a year, and would reach those most able to bear it.

"Take the Crane company," he said, "which issued 200 per cent stock dividends; take the North Texas oil company, which issued a 500 per cent stock dividend; take the Franklin Yarn company, which issued a 2,000 per cent stock dividend. The Standard Oil company of Nebraska, just a few days ago, issued a 200 per cent dividend.

"You do not tax them because the tax would fall upon those who are most able to bear the burden of taxation to run the government and pay the war debt.

"The claim is made that the excess profits tax retards business and should therefore be repealed. Then, on the other hand, they argue that not only the excess profits tax is added and passed on to the consumer, but in many cases more than the tax is passed on to the consumer, thereby contributing to the high cost of living.

"These two statements are not consistent and show how ridiculous, some witnesses become when they are making any sort of argument that they think may be necessary to shift the burden of taxation to the shoulders of the other fellow.

"The price level of commodities in this country increased 61 per cent before any excess profits was even discussed in this country, and a further rise of 25 per cent additional before the law was placed on the statute books; hence it seems to me that these facts alone dispose of the argument that these taxes have been passed on to the consumer and have been responsible for the high cost of living in this country.

"If these corporations could pass these taxes on to the consumer at this time, they would not be here asking for the repeal of this law.

"The profits of all the corporations of this country had never exceeded $4,000,000,000 before 1913. For the year 1917 these profits reached the astounding figure of $10,500,000,000. For the four years 1916-1919, inclusive, profits averaged $9,000,000,000 before taxes were paid and $7,000,000,000 after all federal taxes had been paid. In other words, these corporations made over $30,000,000,000 during the four years 1916-1919, and they also made around $7,000,000,000 in 1920. Yet they come before the congress of the United States and ask the congress to relieve them of taxation and, of course, they advocate the sales or consumption taxes."

"HIGH" WAGE MARK, $28.93.

Albany, N. Y., Sept. 3.—The "high" wages of factory workers in this state were $28.93 a week, according to the state department of labor. These figures were the highest during the war and were reached last October. The publicity agents of big business never got down to facts in their campaign against what they termed "silk-shirt wages," and created the impression that rates were many times greater than $28.93 a week.

The state department of labor states that the July average shows a drop of $3.67 a week, or 13 per cent, from the October record.

UNITY BREAKS LOCKOUT.

New York, Sept. 3.—The solidarity of raincoat makers broke a lockout that was started by employers who wanted wage reductions. These workers are members of local No. 20, International Ladies' Garment Workers' union. The old agreement is renewed and the entire raincoat industry is now on a peace basis.

"EQUITY" SHOP UPHELD.

New York, Sept. 3.—Federal Judge Mack, acting as umpire in the dispute between the Producing Managers' association and the Actors' Equity association, has upheld the "equity" or union shop that the actors insist on.

The managers have claimed that the actors' refusal to work with non-members of their association is a violation of a basic agreement between these organizations.

The matter was referred to Judge Mack, who finds for the actors. He says the "equity" shop is "not in violation of law or of sound public policy."

The decision was received with deafening cheers at a meeting of more than 3,000 actors and actresses. John Drew, Ethel Barrymore and other well known stars lead the cheering.

The managers have made heroic efforts to smash the actors' association, and organized a company "union," but Umpire Mack's award will prove a blow to this policy and peace is quite possible.

RAILROADS VIOLATE STATUTE THEY INSISTED CONGRESS PASS

Washington, Sept. 3.—The railroads have not lived up to the Cummins-Esch law, declared Congressman Huddleston in a speech in the house of representatives.

"They have not," he said. "lived up to the clause of the act which requires them to operate honestly and economically, but more serious than this they have flouted, violated and evaded its labor sections. These sections were placed in the act at the instance of railroads. The employes unanimously opposed them. The railroad lobbyists, by their influence upon congress, forced the labor sections down the employes' throats. Now the railroads themselves refuse to obey those sections.

"Time after time the railroads have openly violated the orders of the railroad labor board. Time after time has the railroad labor board been forced to call a halt on their lawlessness.

"Take the Pennsylvania railroad for instance. It was ordered to have a conference with its employes. It refused to recognize the employes' organizations and tried to create a bastard organization of its own. The railroad labor board denounced its action and again ordered it to confer with its employes. The railroad has not yet complied although the time for compliance has expired, and as a result a labor disturbance which may rock the nation is threatened upon that railroad system.

"Take the case of the Erie with its shops at Hornell, N. Y., farmed out to a fictitious corporation officered by railroad officials for the purpose of evading the transportation act and the orders of the railroad labor board.

"The case of the Erie shops, at Marion, Ohio, is a shocking illustration of railroad dishonesty and deception. The Erie has leased its Marion shops to a dummy corporation, capitalized at $1,000, with not enough capital to meet the pay roll for a single day. The Erie's master mechanic, under the guise of an officer of the new corporation, was continued in charge of the shops. Rules were posted requiring employes to submit to a physical examination by the company doctor, paying the fee from their own pockets. All of this for the purpose of evading the orders of the railroad labor board.

"How can railroads holding themselves above the law expect to have law-abiding employes. More than this, how they can expect to hold the sympathy and confidence of congress? How can they expect congress to lend them the people's money to relieve their necessities?"

OUT-OF-WORK PROBLEM MAY DEVELOP CRISIS

Atlantic City, N. J., Sept. 3.—"The unemployment situation is nearing a dangerous crisis, and unless dealt with in an efficient, intelligent and humane fashion, the coming winter may find the feeding of the hungry and starving not alone a problem of the old world, but a problem of the new world," said the A. F. of L. executive council in a statement issued at its quarterly meeting in this city.

"The time has passed for mere phrasing," the unionists declare. "The time for action is here. Following false economic principles, reducing the purchasing power of the wage earners, throwing our industrial order into hostile camps, do not make for confidence and stability in our productive processes.

"Every reduction in wages has only increased the desire to withhold production in the hope and belief that still further reductions of wages will take place."

Demand is made that federal and state governments immediately concern themselves with putting into operation processes of production for public improvement of buildings, roads, etc., and to use the credit of the country for the encouragement of productive processes.

"It is time that the industrial, commercial and financial interests of our land, turn from the path of prejudice, hatred and selfishness and follow the course of humanity and avoid the black clouds of destitution and starvation that are shadowing so many people in other lands.

"The present unemployment is due to non-production on the part of employers and the constant and persistent efforts being made to lessen the ability of the great mass of our people—the wage earners of our land—to purchase the commodities and necessities of life.

"If production is to be enhanced, the consuming ability of the people must be enlarged.

"It has been demonstrated that reducing wages does not increase production.

"Wages have been lowered in many instances and in all cases every sort of promise has been made for an increased production, and yet we have today the greatest number of unemployed workers."

NORTHWEST MINERS NEXT.

Seattle, Wash., Sept. 3.—Coal miners in this state are the next to be attacked by coal owners who would destroy trade unionism in this industry. The significance of the present attack is apparent when it is recalled that the Miners' union is the backbone of the trade union movement in this state. Notices have been posted on coal properties that the owners will no longer deal with the union.

It is known that strikebreakers are being herded by the coal owners, who have posted eviction notices on their company houses. Attorneys for the miners are preparing to resist this attempt to weaken the morale of the miners by throwing their families into the public highways.

That the miners will not wage their fight single-handed is indicated by this statement in the official bulletin of the Washington state federation of labor:

"The miners have been generous to a fault in their support of every branch of the labor movement in any labor fight that has occurred within the state, and now that not only their own destiny is at stake in this fight, but that of the general movement itself, support of them should be unstinted.

"The fight will be bitter and may be long drawn out, and the miners are entitled to, and should be given freely, the united support of the general labor movement of the state throughout the struggle."

TO DISCUSS UNEMPLOYED.

Washington, Sept. 3.—The unemployed situation, with its menacing prospects the coming winter, has resulted in a decision by the president to call a conference. He has instructed Secretary of Commerce Hoover to formulate the plans.

Secretary Hoover expressed preference for as small a conference as possible, for "working reasons," and says it is intended to invite representatives "of the greater groups of industries and thought, and the cooperation of their national organizations will be sought in their selection.

"The object of the conference," he said, "will be to inquire into the volume of needed employment and the distribution of unemployment, to make recommendations as to measures that can properly be taken in co-ordinated speeding up of employment by industries and public bodies during the next winter and in addition to make a broad study of the economic measures desirable to ameliorate the unemployment situation and give impulse to the recovery of business and commerce to normal. Many constructive suggestions have been made to the department by employers, the governors of states and city officials."

WEALTHY DODGE TAXES.

Washington, Sept. 3.—Agents of the internal revenue bureau suspect that many wealthy citizens are dodging income taxes. It is stated that scores of these patriots with incomes from $100,000 up to $1,000,000 a year paid less than $5,000 to the government for the last year of the war. Many of the returns that are being investigated show a remarkable increase in income in 1919 over 1918 not accounted for in the tax returns.

It is claimed that the tax dodgers include 2,000 prominent and supposedly wealthiest men in the United States.

A sample instance mentioned is that of an eminent business and professional man—whose name is not disclosed—who is now in a prominent government position. He paid less than $5,000 income tax in 1918, but in 1919 acknowledged having an income in excess of $500,000.

BIG PROFIT IN BEANS.

Boston, Sept. 3.—The time-honored bean is sold in local arm chair lunch rooms in this city at a profit akin to the oil promoter, according to the state commission of necessaries of life.

The commission has counted the beans and finds that they average 295 per plate. Together with bread and butter, the outfit costs the lunch room 3 1-2 cents and sells for 15 cents.

STRIKE INSURANCE BLOWS UP; RECEIVER MAY BE APPOINTED

Baltimore, Sept. 3.—The strike insurance and strikebreaking plan of the Employers' Mutual Insurance and Service company has hit the rocks.

A commission appointed by the court reports that the company's liabilities exceed its assets by about $1,000,000 and possibly considerably more.

Circuit Judge Dobler has ordered that a receiver be appointed for the company unless it proves it is capable of paying its debts.

State Insurance Commissioner Keating was a member of the commission that investigated the company under order of the court. The following recommendation was included in the commission's report:

"That an injunction be issued suspending the business of the company and that receivers be appointed to take charge of the estate and assets of the company and to administer the same and wind up its affairs under the direction of this honorable court and that the charter of said company, as an insurance company, be annulled and forfeited."

The commission held that the company was doing business in violation of the laws of the state of Maryland and had not sufficient assets to carry on its business; that it was insolvent and unable to pay its losses.

The commission indicates that the 44-hour strike of the printing trades was the final blow to the company.

Organized labor has been ceaseless in its publicity agitation that the company is a strikebreaking institution. This position is sustained by Leroy Lane, assistant to President Edward C. Myers of the company, who acknowledged that the company maintained an employment service to furnish employes to employers who were having labor troubles.

In acknowledging that organized labor exposed this company Lane pleaded that employers who had insured should waive their claims rather than permit trade unionists to point to this latest victory.

"I believe the insured would put beyond any question of indemnity, if necessary, the moral effect of continued operation of the company," said Lane. "If receivers are appointed it will be the biggest feather in the cap of organized labor that has ever happened in this country."

ARBITRATION BLUFF IN COMPANY "UNION"

Chicago, Sept. 3.—We don't want outsiders or arbitration boards interfering with our control, but some sort of an arbitration bluff must be part of our company "union."

This is the position taken by a publication issued by Armour & Co., meat packers, in explaining the formation of their company "union." The first meeting was presided over by John E. O'Hern, general superintendent of all the Armour plants.

Under the plan grievances are started through divisional committees, then the plant conference, then the general board and then to the general superintendent. The constitution provides:

"If the settlement proposed by the general superintendent is not satisfactory to a majority of the employe representatives, and if after a further period of 10 days no agreement has been reached, then the general superintendent shall refer the matter to a general conference board as provided in section XIII, or he shall propose that by mutual agreement the matter be submitted to arbitration as provided in section XIV."

There is nothing in the constitution which provides that grievances shall be automatically referred to an impartial umpire. At all times the company holds control.

In its publication the company almost frankly states that this elusive arbitration plan is only for publicity purposes and is not intended to function.

WHY WOMEN ARE FAVORED.

Washington, Sept. 3.—Why many employers favor women workers is shown in a report issued by the United States women's bureau on "Women's Wages in Kansas."

During 1920 less than $9 a week was earned by 19.3 per cent or one-fifth of the women in all Kansas industries, exclusive of restaurants.

When the $18 wekly wage rate is considered it is found that not a female in a 5 and 10-cent store in the entire state received that amount, and 86.9 per cent of all industries pay less than this rate.

Less than $15 a week is earned by 97.9 per cent of the women in miscellaneous food manufacturing, and the same condition applies in telephones, with 97.6 per cent; in laundries, with 97.5 per cent; in poultry packing, with 95.6 per cent; in miscellaneous manufacturing, with 95.4 per cent; in restaurants, with 94.5 per cent; in general mercantile, with 88.2 per cent; in clothing manufacturing, with 87.6 per cent, in offices, with 74.1 per cent, and in meat packing with 59.5 per cent.

The report states that even the low state minimum of $11 a week is far from accepted in the industries of the state.

"The appalling size—nearly one-fifth of all the women included in the survey—of the group receiving less than $9 a week, and the fact that more than one half of the women were receiving less than $12 a week disclose a very serious situation for the women workers of the state," says the report.

LABOR OFFICIAL DIES.

Jacksonville, Fla., Sept. 3.—J. C. Prevett, Florida state labor inspector, died suddenly in this city.

BANKERS ON STRIKE.

Memphis, Tenn., Sept. 3.—The bankers of this country are on strike, and are sabotaging the nation's credit, were views expressed, in financial language, by D. R. Crissinger, comptroller of the currency, in an address to the Cotton States' Merchants' association.

The federal official said that the bank that refuses credit on proper security, or which maintains unnecessarily high reserves (cash on hand) "is just as bad a bank as the one which loans too freely and which encourages speculation."

One-third of the national banks in this country "are maintaining larger cash reserves than are either necessary or reasonably justifiable," he said.

An appeal was made for the bankers to use the credits and resources of a community as a social duty.

While Mr. Crissinger pleads with bankers to be just in the use of the people's credit, which has been seized by them, the A. F. of L. declares that this power is too great for any set of men and that the control of credit should be a government function, because credit is "inherently social."

Legalized Kidnapping Opposed by Workers

Atlantic City, N. J., Sept. 3.—A bill to legalize kidnaping, which recently slipped through the United States senate, was denounced by the A. F. of L. executive council.

Under this bill a federal judge in the far west could order the arrest of a citizen of New York, and the accused would be denied preliminary hearing in the New York federal courts.

The unionists declare that this bill would "take the heart out of the writ of habeas corpus" and that it intends to grant to the judicial branch of our government "a power which will place the liberty of our people under its complete domination." It is further declared that the bill passed the senate "by a cavernous route and darkened ways," and that it seeks to place in the hands of the federal courts "a power formerly possessed only by kings and in which citizens were treated as subjects rather than the sovereigns of a nation.

"It is difficult to understand the cause or grievances which should now prompt the removal of these safeguards to the rights and liberties of all our people and which have been enforced since our nation was founded. It is inconceivable that the rights and liberties of American freedom shall be left to the complete and exclusive mercy of judges clothed with such extraordinary power."

STATE COMPENSATION FAVORED BY WORKERS

Rochester, N. Y., Sept. 3.—State-controlled workmen's compensation was favored by the annual convention of the state federation of labor.

It was shown that the cost of private liability companies is 12 times that of state-controlled insurance.

The convention's action is in line with the declaration by the A. F. of L., which points to Ohio as having a model compensation insurance law.

SUPPORTS A. F. OF L.

San Juan, Porto Rico, Sept. 3.—"I extend my sincerest greetings to you and the American Federation of Labor," said Mr. E. Mont Reily, the new governor of Porto Rico, in a letter to Santiago Iglesias, A. F. of L. organizer and president of the Free Federation of Workingmen of Porto Rico.

In his inaugural address the governor referred to "labor agitators," and the trade unionist, in expressing labor's well wishes to the new official, asked him to define his conception of "labor agitators." The governor replied that he did not have in mind "those who are sincerely and honestly working for the betterment of labor conditions and the laborers throughout the world.

"On the other hand," he said, "I have no sympathy nor place for men, or organization, whose design is to hide bolshevism or I. W. W.ism behind the cloak of the good name of labor.

"The A. F. of L. is primarily founded upon principles unquestioned in sincerity and fraught with good will toward mankind."

CATTLE PRICE IS LOW.

Omaha, Neb., Sept. 3.—Western killing cattle sold for $7.50 for 100 pounds on the local live stock market last week. This price is the lowest since August, 1911, when the top quotation was $6.70. Feeders brought $7.65, the lowest since August, 1912, when the price was $7.15.

Dodge Trap To Enforce "Can't-Strike" Law

Washington, Sept. 3.—Kansas miners have dodged a judicial trap set by the judge of the Cherokee county district court to enforce compliance with Allen's "can't-strike" law, according to Alexander Howat, president of the Kansas miners' district, in a conference with President Gompers and Secretary Morrison at A. F. of L. headquarters.

President Howat and Alexander Dorchy were convicted of violating the Allen law, last June, when the judge ordered the jury to return a verdict of guilty. After the jury was discharged they signed a declaration that "each and every of said jurors expressed himself as believing that neither of said defendants had done any wrong."

When the miners asked the court for the privilege of appealing the case they were told that the appeal would not be allowed unless each deposited a $2,000 bond not to strike or order a strike until the appeal is decided.

The unionists declare that they will not be party to this attempt to buy what belongs to them—the right of appeal.

President Howat shows that a compliance with this requirement means an admission of guilt, and that the mine workers will not be caught in the trap.

The court's position shows the failure of the "can't-strike" law which must now depend upon rules made by courts to attempt to make it effective.

The Kansas miners' officials say Governor Allen has further aroused trade unionists by his attempt to teach the purposes of his "can't-strike" law in the public schools and that this propoganda will be contested before the school book commission and to the supreme court, if necessary.